

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

June 2020



Golden Years of DX

**MEETING PROGRAMS:
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE:

**JUNE 24, 2020
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

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From the Prez . . .

Ron, N6XT



My fellow members,

As most of you know the board and I decided to cancel in-person upcoming meetings until further notice (assuming conditions will change).

We are looking for Volunteers to fill the Vice President, one board member seat. If you interested in throwing your name in the hat, contact me or one of the board members. Be safe ..

Meetings in cyberspace work well. So well that we'll do it again on **Wednesday, June 24th** at 6:30 P.M.. The URL and password to access the recording of the May Zoom meeting is included in the Secretary's Report. Also, please stand by for a special meeting notice closer to the meeting date.

See you on-line then and until we get together again, please stay well.

73,

Ron, N6XT

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes May 27, 2020

Our May meeting was held using the Zoom video conferencing application. For now, we plan to continue holding club meetings on Zoom until in person meetings can resume.

At 6:30 P.M. Ron Rosson, N6XT called the meeting to order. 22 members participated in this meeting.

Ron announced that nominations for all board positions are now open. There is one board position that will be ending, and the Vice President position. We will take nominations before the next meeting and will need to vote on them also at the next meeting. This is your club we will need people to step up to the plate and either a nominate themselves or a member in the club. Please contact Ron if you would like to nominate a member or volunteer yourself for a board position.

After Ron's announcements we held a roundtable.

The next meeting will be held on June 24th at 6:30 P.M.

At 7:45 P.M. The meeting was adjourned.

A recording of this meeting was made (but started a few minutes after the meeting started). Use this link and password:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6JVElez3ynNiadbR80zbRpITHlvGT6a8hCYb_PUIyE3mZMs5OArxb482iQ94w9S

Password: 6g*3DC%\$

Treasurer's Report

Income for May: None

Expenses for May: \$14.99 Zoom Pro, \$200 club liability insurance from ARRL

Balance on 5/27/2020 \$5,531.53



Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC Contest Results

By John, K6AM



2019 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO - U	N5ZO	192,726	1,161	83	#1 SW DIV
MS - HP	NX6T (OPS K4RB N6CY N6KI WM6Y)	177,122	1,067	83	#2 SW DIV
SO - LP	KI6RRN	134,460	810	83	#2 SW DIV
SO - U	K6ZH	81,180	495	82	#5 SW DIV
SO - LP	WN6K	87,360	560	78	#3 SW DIV
SO - HP	W6JBR	10,506	103	51	
SO - Q	N7LU	256	16	8	

2019 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES PHONE CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
MS - HP	W6YI (+K6AM N6AN N6KI N6WIN W2PWS)	306,602	1,847	83	#1 US/VE
SOU - HP	NX6T (KK6NON)	209,990	1,265	83	#1 SW DIV #14 US/VE
SO - LP	WN6K	103,356	638	81	#2 SW DIV #15 US/VE
SO - HP	W6JBR	10,918	103	53	

John, K6AM

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM



TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 17 METERS

5/20	5/18		CALLZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K6AM	40	329	336	336	-1
2.	2.	K6XT	40	315	317	327	-
3.	3.	N7CW	40	312	312	326	-
4.	4.	W6YI	39	304	306	325	+2
5.	5.	K0XB	40	314	317	318	+2
6.	6.	K6ZH	40	291	294	307	-
7.	7.	N6CW	39	?	231	297	-
8.	8.	WB6BFG	39	282	284	293	-
9.	10.	NA6L	39	276	276	281	-
10.	-.	WN6K	40	242	244	280	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 METERS

5/20	5/18		CALLZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K6AM	40	314	320	322	+1
2.	2.	W6YI	39	278	280	301	-
3.	3.	N7CW	40	260	260	300	-
4.	5.	K0XB	39	288	290	292	-
5.	4.	K6XT	40	275	277	277	-22
6.	6.	N6CW	39	?	192	268	-
7.	7.	WB6BFG	40	247	249	263	-
8.	8.	NA6L	39	253	253	261	-
9.	9.	K6ZH	38	239	242	250	-
10.	10.	WN6K	39	220	221	246	-

While K6XT continues to improve the accuracy of his reports, W6YI continues inching closer to the top spot. As cycle 24 hits rock bottom, these bands are now out of steam and may be stalled for several more years to come.

Both of these lists are much easier to break into than the other bands. If you're not playing the WARC bands, you're missing a chance to experience the thrill of working a new one several times every month. The little Cushcraft WARC dipole is all you need to get started. The newer Force 12 Antennas work on 12 and 17 with a couple dB of gain as well.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 160 meters, digital and band-countries. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

THE SDDXC TOP 10 (EXPANDED EDITION)

By John, K6AM



TOTAL BAND-COUNTRIES WORKED

6/20	6/18	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	W6YI	367	2683	2737	2841	+14
2.	1.	K6XT	358	2724	2776	2788	-51
3.	3.	K6AM	2681	2742	2776	+19	
4.	4.	N7CW	376	2526	2526	2715	-
5.	5.	N6CW	374	?	2300	2629	-
6.	6.	K0XB	350	2348	2384	2414	+21
7.	7.	K6ZH	338	2204	2250	2325	-
8.	8.	NA6L	341	2128	2128	2217	+4
9.	10.	WN6K	337	1838	1982	2156	-15
10.	12.	W5BN	1586	1586	2096	+173	
11.	11.	WB6BFG	321	1855	1865	1975	-
12.	15.	K5OA	286	1627	1653	1860	+263
13.	13.	N6XT	307	1415	1435	1732	-
14.	14.	N6VS	301	1524	1542	1633	-
15.	17.	WB1EAZ	?	1563	1574	1579	+79
16.	18.	W6HDG	281	1483	1483	1565	+156
17.	16.	NN6K	226	1513	1539	1539	-
18.	19.	NC6K	?	1261	1274	1265	+210
19.	-	AI6O	276	513	514	1051	NEW

In the TBC category, the granddaddy of DX'ing, Jim, W6YI takes over the lead after Art, K6XT drops into second place after turning in an adjusted total. Quite a few huge jumps by guys who have not updated their total for a while plus the fact that we missed this list last year when our editor was sidelined.

There's plenty of room to make a decent gain in this category by getting on those bands where your totals are still low. For the TBC list, we are showing the first 20 places to accommodate the large number of entries in this category.

Remember to update your logging software to include the new Z6, Kosovo prefix and get me an updated report before we do the Mixed, Phone, and CW ladder totals later this year. The current ladder was updated on Jan 1 but didn't get posted to the Club's web page until recently. Check it out.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser-recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 6/160 and digital followed by phone and CW. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

Visalia DX Convention to be Two Virtual Events in 2021

06/16/2020

It will be a Virtual Visalia in 2021. Organizers announced this week that the newly renamed International DX and Contesting Convention (**IDXCC**) in Visalia, California, will span two weekends next April, providing a “choice of two Vs.” Each will be a “unique 3-day event” without duplication. Registration will begin early next year. The former International DX Convention was canceled in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visalia sponsors said the event’s new name better reflects what the convention had become over the years — a gathering of both avid DXers and testers from around the US and the world. Sponsors said the challenge for planning next year’s event was whether to prepare for an in-person convention or a virtual gathering.

“Everyone wants to hold out hope for a face-to-face meeting next year, but we have to ask, ‘What will our new normal lifestyle be like next April, and can we guarantee a COVID-free environment for our attendees?’” an announcement on the IDXCC website explained. “After consultation with a few medical experts, epidemiologists, and longtime attendees of IDXCC, we have concluded that for 2021, the right choice — and the safest choice — is to have a virtual convention instead of an in-person meeting.”

Visalia Part 1 will take place on April 16 – 18, 2021, and Part 2 on April 23 – 25. The program will include forums, technical talks, DXpedition reports, and award presentations. The 2021 Virtual Visalia will offer a contest academy, DX University, hands-on demonstrations, webinars by exhibitors and special guests, a “chaotic eyeball QSO hour,” “dinners without dinner,” banquet-style gatherings for Islands on the Air (IOTA), Top Band, and contesting, and prize raffles.

“Just think: Whether you’re an old-timer or newcomer, you can have a safe, front-row seat at the first-ever Virtual DX and Contesting Convention next April without leaving [home],” organizers said. “The 2021 IDXCC Convention Committee will work hard to make this a memorable one.”

Visalia 2021 co-chairs John Miller, K6MM, and Rich Seifert, KE1B, invite questions and suggestions via [email](#).

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



The Golden Age of DXing

As I scanned the bands this morning (less frequently now than in times previously), I couldn't help thinking about a time when DXing was both more rewarding and more exciting. Maybe my newly stylish white hair has something to do with my feelings, but I think there might be another agenda at work. Is DXing still as exciting and rewarding as it was in the past? Are we in the "Golden Age of DXing" today or is the Golden Age only visible in the rearview mirror? While everyone will have their own perspective on the Golden Age of DXing, this is mine. I started doing a walk down the DXing memory lane and decided to share those reminiscences with my fellow Club members.

DXing started way before my time. I'll put a stake in the ground and say that DXing – as we know it now – started after the Great War (WW1) with the ARRL Transatlantic Listening Tests in early February, 1921. (BTW, the interest in listening tests gave way to two-way transmitting tests which became more competitive. The designation "test" evolved to "contest." Early contests included Field Day in 1934, the International test in 1927, Sweepstakes in 1930, and the ARRL DX contest in 1932.

At that time, a 25-mile QSO "was a real achievement". Traffic handling was the hot topic in QST and on the air.

On November 27, 1923, at about 21:30Z, 1XAM and 1MO in the USA finally made the first two-way QSO with French station 8AB on 110 meters (2.72MHz).

The transatlantic tests ran from 1921 to 1924 and grew into a competition between spark and CW with CW eventually dominating the results. In April, 1926, the IARU (later the ARRL) introduced the "WAC Club", with WAC standing for then (as now) to Worked All Continents. The first recipient was a California ham (Brandon Wentworth) call sign 6OI (at the Stanford University Club).

So the 1920's (the Roaring 20's) were sort of a Golden Age of DXing, but in an embryonic form that has very little connection to the DXing I was thinking about.

Moving to the 1930's, DXing became an almost "non-starter" as the world struggled with the Great Depression. In 1930, AM phone was first allowed on 20 meters. The DXCC award was introduced in 1937 but by 1939 the "Winds of War" were beginning to blow in Europe.

I wasn't around in the 1930's, so, particularly with the Depression in full swing, the 1930's were not DXing's best decade.

Then came the 1940's. WW2 dominated the first years of the decade. Ham radio was suspended for the war years, so the 1940's offered only an abbreviated DX "window". But some activity originated

Remember QST's "How's DX?" with sections titled **How, Why, Where, When and What?** Remember **Jeeves?** How about W6MBA/Tinian (the B29 base)?

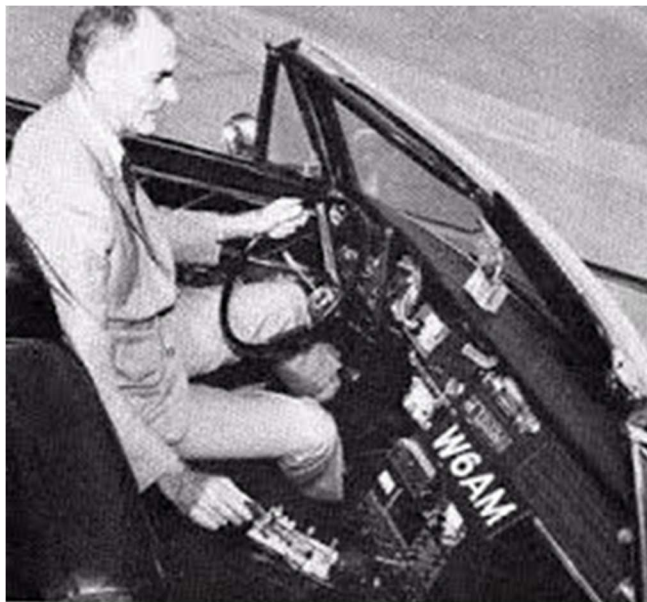
By mid-1946, exotic callsigns were being highlighted including XZ4AM, VQ4ERR, CR9AG, VS1RP, EP1C and many others. The bands were coming alive again.

DXing in the 1940's benefitted from a cornucopia of WW2 surplus radio gear. Tons of surplus transmitters and receivers were working their way into ham shacks around the world, easing the way for ex-GI's scattered around the world to warm up the bands again after a long hiatus.

The Golden Age – not yet; but the foundation was being poured.

By 1955, Rod Newkirk, W9BRD was editing the How's DX? column in QST. How's DX consumed four pages of valuable QST real estate. By the time my ticket arrived in the mail in November, 1959, the call signs at the Top of the DXCC list were: W1FH, W6AM, ZL2GX, KV4AA, W3GHD, PY2CK VQ4ERR (Phone) and other memorable Deserving. 290 countries put you at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll. The final 1959 edition of QST had W6AM at the absolute top of the heap with 296 countries.

For Big Guns like W6AM and W1FH, the 1950's were Golden Years. For this "Little Pistol", well, I was just getting started.



Moving into the 1960's, DXpeditioning was starting to gain a head of steam. Think about **Gus Browning, W4BPD** who operated from a whole bunch of choice DX QTHs, including:

- Bouvet Island, LH4C
- Bhutan, AC5A
- Malagasy Republic, 5R8CM
- Swaziland, ZS6IF/7
- Assumption Island, VQ9A/AN
- Aldabra Island, VQ9A/7
- Afghanistan, YA1A
- Reunion Island, FR7ZC,
- Yemen, MP4QAR/4W1
- Kuria Muria, VS9HAA
- Burundi, 9U5ZZ
- Tristan Da Cunha, ZD9AM
- French Somaliland, FL5A
- Kenya, VQ4ERR

The 1960's also introduced the Deserving to **Danny Weil, VP2VB**. Danny left England in 1954 in a 19-foot boat called the "Yasme" that he built by himself in order to travel the world alone, after being inspired by the book "Kon Tiki". Danny completed his first solo crossing of the Atlantic in 1954, landing in Antigua. In 1963, after 9 years, 3 boats and travels to the Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands, Danny finally completed his around-the-world voyage.

Danny's around the world DXpedition included operations as KZ5WD, FO8AN, VK9TW, VR4AA and CR10/AB. Yasme endures as a DX award and as a philanthropic foundation. Prominent members include Lloyd and Iris Colvin, Martti Laine and others.

We can't forget **Gus Browning, W4BPD**. Gus was everywhere and listening to Gus on 20 meter SSB was to listen at the feet of a master of DX operating. I remember him saying; "Ok, ok, ok chaps, all stations up ten, up ten – all stations up ten!" The heavy metal brigade moved up ten and called long and loud and I heard Gus mutter; "That will take care of the lids!" and he proceeded to pick off stations at 4-5 a minute – anywhere except ten up. Work it out!

Next we have **Lloyd (W6KG) and Iris (W6QL) Colvin**.

This DXpedition combo has a list of callsigns as long as my arm. They operated from literally hundreds of DXCC entities. They remained active until close to the time of Lloyd's passing in December, 1993. (I have close to 100 cards from Colvin expeditions).



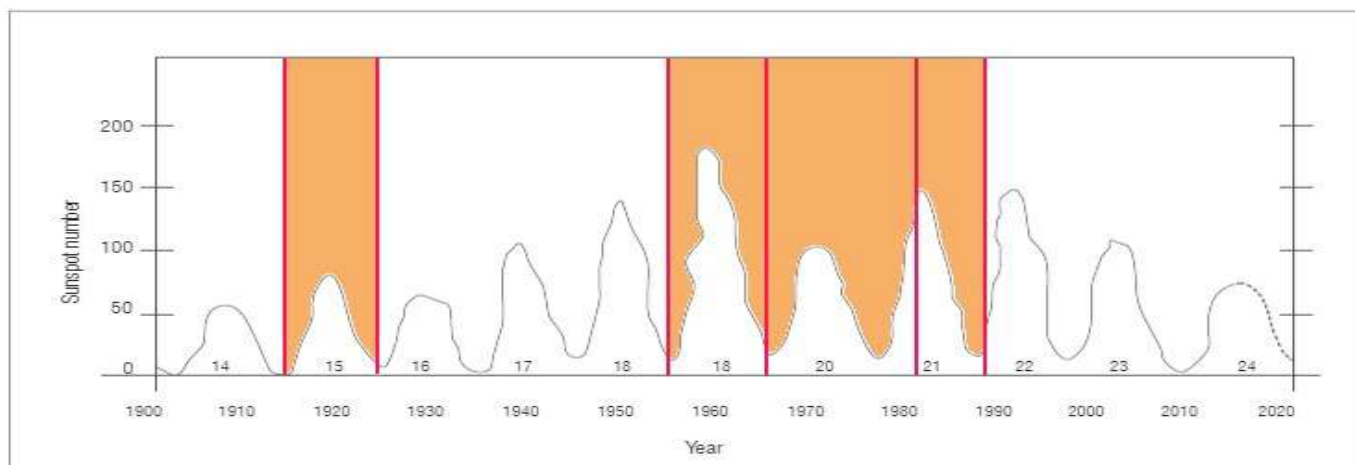
Don Miller, W9WNV. Don Miller may be the most famous (infamous?) DXer of all time. Was Don Miller the Babe Ruth of DXing? Or was he the John Dillinger? The answer is he was neither . . . or maybe both. Don was famous. Don was DX personified in the mid-60s. He had a public dispute with the ARRL and the DXCC desk. Some of his operations were disallowed. Others remain counters today, over 30 years later. Don made a lot of DXers happy. He infuriated probably just as many. His operations had more influence on shaping the DXCC program than any other person or event since 1945. W9WNV made the ARRL take a step back and reassess the entire program and the accreditation criteria. And although most DXers didn't realize it at the time, it shifted the DXCC and DXing into the limelight. For years, the DXCC and DXing had been just a sideline of the ARRL. They existed for the traffic men, for the home-brew enthusiasts, for QST and the Amateur's Code. Don changed all this. PLUS he invented "5NN". I have his cards.

Martti Laine, OH2BH. No story about DXing in the 1960's can be complete without highlighting Martii's contribution. Martii can proudly say: "Been there, done that"! Think OJ0B, OJ0AM, AH3D, XZ2BH, XU2BH, S0RASD, ZA1UT, P51BH, Z60A and so many more. Of all the DXpeditioners, Martti has given me more ATNO's than anyone I can think of.

I know I left some luminary DXpeditioners out, but many thanks to all of them. To this DXer, the 1960's were definitely part of the Golden Age.

For K9RHY, the 1970's and 1980's were "lost" years. I was on the move, covering almost 3 million air miles and moving the home QTH from IL to MI, from MI to CO, and from CO to CA. I "enjoyed" almost 200 nights in hotels for many of those years. Some of my best years chasing DX were in the late 1980's and the 1990's. These were the years I hit the top of the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, picked up 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ and other awards. The 1980's were great years for DX but the 1990's were probably the best. My current DXCC Mixed shows 354, 350 on phone and 351 on CW. I've enjoyed and am thankful for many Golden Ages of DXing!

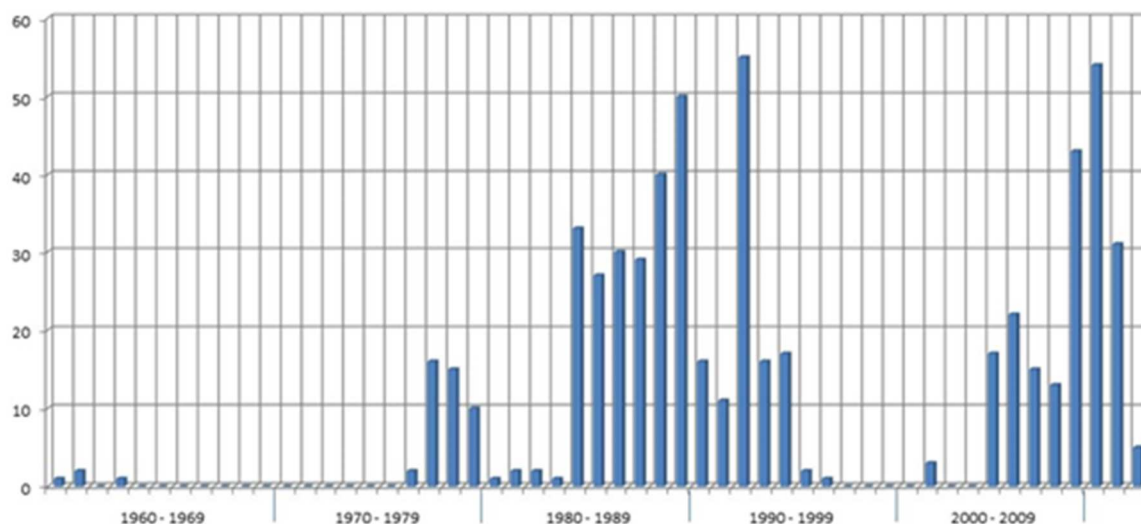
We, as hams and DXers, are intensely focused on atmospheric conditions and sunspot numbers as indicators of the richness of the DX experience. Shown below, I've highlighted my personal Golden Year experiences against a backdrop of sunspot activity. There appears to be more than a casual correspondence. Sunspots work.



Somewhere during the 1980's I became almost exclusively an IOTA chaser. I'm up there but nowhere near the top of the IOTA Honor Roll at about 850 today, but new islands are nonexistent these days with the Covid-19 lockdowns around the world. I've got all the islands that have resident hams and need island DXpeditions for new ones. No new ones lately.

Here are my new IOTA counters by year:

K9RHY New IOTA Counters by Year



Lots of peaks and valleys.

Every DXer has their own Golden Age experience. Whether you're into CW, SSB, FT8 or some other mode and regardless of the band(s) on which you operate, Golden Years are for you. This narrative simply describes mine. May you be blessed with many, many bountiful Golden Years of DX.

Bob, K9RHY